VIETNAM COURIER

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PRESIDENT Ho Chi Minh is no more.

His passing away has left an immense vacuum, but He is still there in each of us, in our midst.

Aren't this indomitable will for independence, this unquenchable thirst for freedom, this fraternity which welds us to other peoples and nations, this smiling humanitarianism, this exemplary simplicity — all that we draw our daily inspiration from — indissociable from UNCLE HO's *personality?*

Don't these frameworks, structures, organisational edifices, all that environment which supports us in our everyday struggle — the Party, the Government, the People's Army, the National Front — bear the indelible stamp of the man who fathered them?

Wasn't the trail, which we have been following through thick and thin and by discomfiting all enemies in our way, blazed in a masterly manner by the man who knew how to blend the sacred flames of patriotism and the lights of Marxism-Leninism?

Our grief is infinitely keen, but our sorrowing hearts are at peace.

For UNCLE HO *has left us a Party with a unified and well tempered leadership and cadres and militants steeled by long trials, for He has fostered in an entire people the qualities bequeathed by a multimillenary history and the best revolutionary virtues of our times.*

In these days of mourning, we find comfort in the certainty that our Party and people will without fail bring to final victory the struggle we began forty years ago under His leadership.

Our people and Party will drive out the American aggressors, build socialism, strengthen the ties of friendship and fraternity with the socialist countries, with the peoples fighting for their independence, with the working class and progressives of all countries, including the United States.

May UNCLE HO *rest in peace.*

The People and Party shall prove worthy of Him.

SPECIAL COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCES DRVN PRESIDENT'S DEATH

THE Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the Council of Ministers of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front are deeply grieved to inform all Party members and the entire Vietnamese people that Comrade Ho Chi Minh, President of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and President of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, passed away at 9:47 a.m. on September 3,1969, after a sudden and very serious heart attack, at the age of 79.

All through President Ho Chi Minh's illness, the comrades leaders of our Party and State had attended on him day and night, and had entrusted a group of qualified and well-equipped professors and doctors with the mission of trying all means to save him. Everybody had done his best, inspired with a single purpose, but due to his advanced age and serious ailment, the President has departed from us.

President Ho Chi Minh was the great and beloved leader of our Vietnamese working class and nation. He dedicated all his life to the revolution, the people, the Fatherland. He founded the Indo-Chinese Communist Party, now the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the National United Front and the Viet Nam People's Army, organized the August Revolution and steered it to victory, and established the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. He led our people in a war of resistance to the French colonialists formerly and another against the US imperialists at present, with the aim of liberating South Viet Nam, defending the North, and achieving the ultimate peaceful reunification of the country. Under his leadership, the struggle for national independence, people's democracy and socialism recorded tremendous successes.

President Ho Chi Minh was a staunch and outstanding fighter of the international Communist movement and a close friend of the nations in the world now engaged in a fight for independence and freedom.

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APPEAL

OF THE VIET NAM WORKERS' PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE

To all the cadres and members of the Party, to the fighters and compatriots throughout the country and to the Vietnamese abroad.

Dear comrades and compatriots.

THE Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party is deeply grieved to inform our comrades, fighters and compatriots throughout the country and our fellow-countrymen abroad that:

Comrade HO CHI MINH,

President of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party,

President of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam,

after a period of illness and a very serious heart attack, passed away at 9:47 a.m. on September 3, 1969, in Hanoi, at the age of 79.

Comrade HO CHI MINH was the founder of our Party and our State, the founder of the Viet Nam National United Front and people's armed forces, the great and beloved leader of our working class and people, of the entire Vietnamese nation, an outstanding fighter of the international Communist movement and national liberation movement. His death is an irreparable loss to our Party and people.

As a great patriot, a loyal disciple of Karl Marx and V.I. Lenin, Comrade HO CHI MINH always upheld the spirit of thorough-going struggle against imperialism, dedicated all his life to the cause of liberation of the working class, the nation and mankind, for independence and freedom, for socialism and communism. He constantly

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APPEAL
OF THE VIET NAM WORKERS' PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE

(Continued from page 1)

kept up the spirit of independence and self-reliance, creatively applied Marxism-Leninism to the specific conditions of our country, and closely combined genuine patriotism with proletarian internationalism. He embodied the finest traditions of the Vietnamese nation with the thorough-going revolutionary ideology of our time — Marxist-Leninist ideology.

His life was a shining example of revolutionary heroism, of militant solidarity, industry, and of the virtues of simplicity, modesty, industry, frugality, honesty and integrity, of public-mindedness and selflessness. His name has been closely associated with the splendid successes of the Vietnamese revolution since our Party came into being and symbolizes the most glorious period in the history of the Vietnamese nation.

President HO CHI MINH has departed from us. But he has fostered for the Vietnamese revolution the fundamental factors that guarantee its complete victory. His revolutionary work and virtues will live for ever with our entire Party and people, for ever with our mountains and rivers, with our Fatherland.

Under the shock of this grievous bereavement, the Central Committee of the Party calls all cadres and members of the Party, fighters of the people's armed forces, compatriots throughout the country and fellow-countrymen abroad, millions as one, *to turn grief into revolutionary deeds, valiantly march forward, further the great cause of President HO CHI MINH, convert into realities his ideals and dreams; strictly implement the line and policy of the Central Committee of the Party and Government, endeavour to learn from his thoughts, virtues and style of work.*

President HO CHI MINH has taught us: "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom"... "Our country is one, our nation is one"... "So long as there remains even only one aggressor on our land, we still must fight on to sweep him away." When still alive, he day and night turned his thoughts to our kindred Southern compatriots, and showed deep concern for the cause of national reunification. We must persist in, and push forward, the resistance against US aggression, for national salvation, march forward and completely defeat the US aggressors, liberate the South, defend the North and achieve peaceful reunification of the Fatherland.

President HO CHI MINH has taught us: "North Viet Nam must certainly progress to socialism. And the most salient features of the transition period in our country is to advance from a backward agricultural country straight to socialism without going through the stage of capitalist development." Let us endeavour to step up socialist construction and achieve socialist transformation, constantly pay attention to the improvement of the people's material and cultural well-being, increase the forces of the North in all fields, defend the North and fulfil our sacred obligation as the great rear area towards the great frontline.

President HO CHI MINH has taught us: "While accomplishing our national task, we must at the same time fulfil our internationalist obligation. Let us join the peoples of the brotherly countries in striving to strengthen and consolidate the socialist system, continuing our resolute support to the revolutionary movement of various countries, actively contribute to the world peoples' drive for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

President HO CHI MINH constantly bent his energies on reinforcing unity and identity of views within our Party and among our people. Loyal to our great teacher and continuing the treasured tradition of our Party, we Vietnamese communists must do our best to preserve solidarity and oneness of mind within the Party like the apples of our own eyes.

Confident in the correct line of the Party, in the strength of the masses, and in the final victory of the revolution, let our entire people rally closer around the Party, let our entire Party tighten its ranks around the Central Committee and struggle to the end for the independence and reunification of the Fatherland, for freedom and happiness of the people, for socialism and communism.

Let the cadres and members of the Party bring into full play their role as vanguard and model, spare no effort in working, studying and training themselves, foster their revolutionary virtues, raise their political standard and professional abilities, preserve the purity, steadiness and strength of the Party, in order to continue in the worthiest manner the revolutionary work of President HO CHI MINH.

Let the members of the Viet Nam Working Youth Union work and study zealously, strive to become genuine communist fighters, so as to deserve the honour of belonging to the generation fostered by UNCLE HO, valiantly pursue the mission of the Party and UNCLE HO, and resolutely realize UNCLE HO's noble ideal.

Let all our people and armed forces act upon President HO CHI MINH's teachings, exert themselves in the patriotic emulation, record still bigger achievements in the resistance war against US aggression, for national salvation as well as in the building of socialism. This is the most practical way to show our love for him and our gratitude to him.

Dear comrades and compatriots,

THE revolutionary cause of our people has been winning one success after another. Let all our Party, armed forces, and people develop their qualities and overcome their shortcomings, bring the resistance to US aggression and for national salvation and socialist revolution to total victory, so as to achieve a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic, prosperous and powerful Viet Nam under the invincible banner of President HO CHI MINH!

September 3, 1969

VIET NAM WORKERS' PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETS IN EMERGENCY PLENARY SESSION

AFTER President Ho Chi Minh had passed away, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party held an emergency plenary session.

The session observed three minutes' silence in memory of President Ho Chi Minh.

The session passed important decisions on the organization of the State funeral of President Ho Chi Minh and approved an appeal to all the cadres and members of the Party, the cadres and men of the armed forces throughout the country, and the people as a whole.

DRVN LEADING BODIES HOLD EXTRAORDINARY JOINT MEETING

ON the afternoon of September 3, 1969, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the Standing Committee of the DRVN National Assembly, the DRVN Council of Ministers and the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front held an extraordinary joint meeting.

The Meeting was deeply moved by the announcement by Comrade Pham Van Dong, member of the Political Bureau of the VNWP Central Committee and Prime Minister, that Comrade Ho Chi Minh, President of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, President of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, had passed away at 9:47 a.m. on September 3, 1969.

All the participants paid with boundless grief silent respects to the memory of President Ho Chi Minh.

The Meeting decided to issue a special communique on the passing away of the President. It also resolved to appoint a State Funeral Committee in charge of organizing the funeral of President Ho Chi Minh.

SPECIAL COMMUNIQUE
Announces DRVN President's Death

(Continued from page 1)

For more than half a century now, the name, human qualities and revolutionary cause of President Ho Chi Minh have been closely associated with the life and fight of our Vietnamese people. His death is a very grievous bereavement for our Party and people.

In token of our regret and our gratitude toward President Ho Chi Minh, the Extraordinary Joint Meeting of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly and the Council of Ministers of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front has taken the following decisions:

1 — To organize a State Funeral for President Ho Chi Minh, with the greatest solemnity ever in our country.

2 — Our entire Party and all our armed forces and people of Viet Nam shall mourn President Ho Chi Minh for seven days, from September 4 to September 10, 1969.

3 — The Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, the Council of Ministers, and the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front has taken the following decisions:

4 — To appoint a State Funeral Committee comprising leaders of the highest ranks of the Party, the State, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front and other mass organisations to see to the State Funeral of President Ho Chi Minh.

In these days of grief, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, the Council of Ministers, and the Presidium of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front appeal to all our Party, armed forces and people to translate sorrow into revolutionary deeds, strengthen unity, and bend all our will and energies on the great cause of fighting and defeating the US aggressors, liberating the South of our country, and successfully building socialism in the North, thereby fulfilling the lofty aspiration cherished by President Ho Chi Minh — **the building of a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic, prosperous and powerful Viet Nam.**

The name and spirit of our Great President Ho Chi Minh will be enshrined for ever in our hearts! His revolutionary cause will certainly be carried forward and brought to fruition!

Hanoi, September 4, 1969

The Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party.

The Standing Committee of the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

The Council of Ministers of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

The Presidium of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front.

SUMMARY BIOGRAPHY OF PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH (Nguyen Tat Thanh in his childhood and Nguyen Ai Quoc for many years in revolutionary activity later) was born on May 19, 1890 in Kim Lien village, Nam Dan district, Nghe An province, and died on September 3, 1969 in Hanoi.

He was born into a patriotic scholar family of peasant origin, and grew up into manhood in a locality with a tradition of heroic resistance to foreign aggression, in a period when the movement for national salvation was seething in Viet Nam.

In late 1911, desirous to learn from revolutionary theories and experiences in various foreign countries so as to liberate his homeland from the colonial yoke, President HO CHI MINH went abroad. He became a worker and took part in the revolutionary mobilization of the peoples in many countries, while militating ceaselessly for the independence and freedom of his own nation. The first Vietnamese to support the Great Russian October Revolution and to find in Marxism-Leninism the way to liberate the working-class and the peoples in the colonies, he became one of the founders of the French Communist Party at the Tours Congress in 1920. From a genuine patriot, he became an outstanding Communist fighter. "To save one's country and liberate one's nation, there is no other road than that of proletarian revolution," he said (1).

To combine the struggle of the Vietnamese people with the international workers' movement and the movement for national liberation in the world, he became one of the founding members of the *League of the Peoples of French Colonies* in 1921, and edited the paper *Le Paria* in France in 1922. In 1923 he was elected to the *Executive Committee of the Peasants' International*. In 1924, he took part in the 5th Congress of the Communist International, and was appointed Standing Member of the Eastern Department, directly in charge of the Southern Section. In 1925, he joined in founding the *League of Oppressed Asian Nations*, and published two well-known books, *Le Procès de la Colonisation française (French Colonization on Trial)* (1925) and *The Path of Revolution* (1927).

To pave the way for a party of Vietnamese communists, in 1925, he founded the *Viet Nam Young Revolutionaries' Association* in Canton, China, and the "Communist League" as the core for the former, and trained Communist militants to lead the League and introduce Marxism-Leninism into Viet Nam. In 1929, the first communist organizations made their appearance in Viet Nam. Empowered by the Executive Committee of the Communist International, he convoked, on February 3, 1930 a "Merger Conference" to unite various Communist organizations in Viet Nam into the *Viet Nam Communist Party*, which later was renamed the *Indo-Chinese Communist Party*, now the *Viet Nam Workers' Party*. He pointed out at the above-said "Merger Conference" that the line for revolution in Viet Nam was first to make national, democratic revolution and then to carry out a socialist revolution.

From 1930 to 1940, Comrade HO CHI MINH continued working in extremely hard and difficult conditions for the liberation of Viet Nam and other oppressed nations.

In 1941, he returned to the country, convened the 8th Session of the Central Committee of the Indo-Chinese Communist Party to decide the line for the salvation of the country, founded the *League for the Independence of Viet Nam* (Viet Minh), organized the Liberation armed forces, built the base for the revolution, and led the people in local uprisings and in preparing for the General Insurrection to seize power in the whole country.

The August (1945) Revolution triumphed, and he proclaimed the *Democratic Republic of Viet Nam* (Sept. 2, 1945). Free general elections were held in the whole country to return a National Assembly, which approved the first democratic constitution of Viet Nam. The National Assembly, First Legislature, elected him President of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam (1946).

Together with the Central Committee of the Party, President HO CHI MINH led our people in frustrate the schemes of the imperialists, thus preserving and consolidating revolutionary power. Shortly after the August Revolution, the French colonialists staged a comeback to our country. He appealed to the entire nation to rise up to defend the independence and freedom of the Fatherland and safeguard and develop the gains of the August Revolution. He said, "...We would rather sacrifice everything than lose our country, or accept slavery." (2)

At the 2nd Congress of the Party (1951), he was elected President of the Central Committee of the Party. Under the leadership of the Party's Central Committee headed by President HO CHI MINH, our people's sacred war of resistance to the French colonialist aggressors achieved success after success and dramatically ended with the great Dien Bien Phu victory (1954).

Following the complete liberation of the North of our country (1954), the Party's Central Committee and President HO CHI MINH laid down two strategic tasks for the Vietnamese Revolution, i.e., to carry out socialist revolution and socialist construction in the North, while striving for the liberation of the South, so as to achieve the reunification of the homeland, and complete the national people's democratic revolution in the whole country.

The 3rd Congress of the Party (1960) charted the line for socialist transformation and socialist construction in the North of for the General Insurrection to seize power in the whole country, and that for the national liberation of the South in order to achieve peaceful reunification. The Congress unanimously reelected Comrade HO CHI MINH President of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party.

Together with the Party's Central Committee, President HO CHI MINH led our people's great resistance to the war of aggression by the US imperialists. He said, "Our country is one, our nation is one" (3), and "... the South and the North are of the same family. They are brothers of the same blood, nothing can separate them" (4). "Nothing is more precious than Independence and Freedom," he emphasized (5).

At the head of the Party's Central Committee, he provided leadership for socialist transformation and socialist revolution in the North of our country. "The North must progress toward socialism, and *the most salient feature in the transition period* in our country is to advance from a backward agricultural country directly to socialism without going through the stage of capitalist development," he said (6).

President HO CHI MINH always advised us to combine our domestic revolutionary tasks with our international revolutionary obligations. He instructed our entire Party and people to contribute actively to the defence of the socialist system, restore unity and identity of mind in our camp and within the international Communist movement on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, and strive to do our bits in the struggle of the world's people for peace, national independence, democracy, and socialism.

President HO CHI MINH creatively applied Marxism-Leninism to the concrete conditions of our country, mapped out correct lines, taken the Vietnamese Revolution from one victory to another. He imaginatively blended the Vietnamese nation's finest traditions with the thorough-going revolutionary thoughts of the working-class, and with Marxist-Leninist ideology, and closely combined genuine patriotism with proletarian internationalism. The revolutionary cause of our Party and President HO CHI MINH have ushered in a new era in the history of the Vietnamese nation, era in which the Vietnamese people defeat various imperialist forces, liberate the nation, achieve people's democracy, and build socialism in their country.

He strongly believed in the great force of the masses and devoted all his life to the Revolution, the people and the Fatherland. He was a bright and perfect impersonation of collective spirit, sense of organization and revolutionary virtues: loyalty to the Party, dedication to the people, industry, thrift, honesty and integrity, public-mindedness and selflessness, modesty and simplicity.

President HO CHI MINH's cause is truly great. He was the founding father of the Marxist-Leninist Party of Viet Nam, the Viet Nam people's united front, the Viet Nam people's armed forces, and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and credited with a great contribution to the strengthening of international solidarity.

President HO CHI MINH was the great teacher of the Vietnamese Revolution, the beloved leader of the working-class and entire nation of Viet Nam, an outstanding fighter, a gifted activist in the international Communist movement and the national liberation movement. His name will live for ever in the heart of each patriotic Vietnamese and his cause will certainly be carried forward victoriously.

(1) Introduction to *HO CHI MINH, Selected Writings and Statements* published in the Soviet Union, 1959.

(2) Appeal for Nation wide Resistance, December 20, 1946.

(3) Letter to Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium, and the members, of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation (June 5, 1967).

(4) Speech of greeting on the occasion of New Year's Day and the return of the Party's Central Committee and the Government to the capital city (January 1st 1955).

(5) President HO CHI MINH's Appeal (July 17, 1966).

(6) "Thirty Years of the Party's Activities."

Condolences from South Viet Nam Republic

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH PERSONIFIES THE ENTIRE VIETNAMESE NATION'S MOST EXALTED FEELINGS

THE Central Committee of the South Viet Nam NFL, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Advisory Council to the PRG in a message dated Sept. 4 expressed to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the DRVN National Assembly, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, and "all our kith-and-kin and fighters in the North" "deepest sorrow, boundless grief and regret at the passing away of President Ho Chi Minh, the supreme leader of the Vietnamese revolution who had devoted all his life to national liberation, reunification of the country, freedom and happiness of the entire Vietnamese people, and emancipation of the oppressed peoples and nations throughout the world."

The message said:

"President Ho Chi Minh has passed away. His death is a great loss for the Vietnamese nation, for the revolution in both zones of our country and also a great loss for that of all oppressed peoples and nations the world over.

"President Ho Chi Minh has passed away. But he lives for ever in the hearts and minds of all comrades, compatriots and fighters in both zones of Viet Nam."

After recalling the great work of President Ho Chi Minh, the message continued:

"President Ho Chi Minh personified the most exalted feelings of the entire Vietnamese nation. Referring to South Viet Nam, he used to say, 'South Viet Nam is the great front of the whole country', 'the Iron Citadel of the Fatherland', "the blood of the blood of Viet Nam, the flesh of the flesh of Viet Nam', 'South Viet Nam is always in my heart'. 'Our country is one, our nation is one'.... 'The South and the North are of the same family; rivers may dry and mountains wear flat, but this truth will never change.'"

The message concluded:

"In these moments of profound grief of the whole country, South Viet Nam regrets that during his lifetime it had not completed national liberation to welcome the President here, so as to fulfil his long-cherished desire and the long-cherished desire of all our compatriots, cadres and fighters who, in response to his sacred call, have been fighting heroically and persistently for more than 20 years."

"Let Us Pledge Ourselves To Resolutely Fulfil the Task President HO CHI MINH Has Entrusted To Us"

(Appeal of the South Viet Nam NFL, the VNANDPF, the PRG of the RSVN and the Advisory Council to the PRG)

AT the joint meeting held on the occasion of President Ho Chi Minh's death, the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam NFL, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Advisory Council to the PRG launched on Sept. 5, 1969 an appeal to the people, officers and soldiers of the PLAF, and civil servants in all branches of activities and at all levels throughout South Viet Nam.

After expressing the deep regret of all the South Vietnamese people and their boundless gratitude toward President Ho Chi Minh, the father of all the Vietnamese people, the great leader and architect of the Vietnamese revolution, the appeal said:

"President Ho Chi Minh incarnated our blood, our flesh, our soul and our intelligence. His passing away is an immense loss for our nation and people. For more than half a century, under his leadership and guidance, our Fatherland and people underwent a tremendous growth, which is the most precious legacy he bequeathed to us before leaving us for ever.

"He impersonated in the most resplendent way the resolution of our people to fight and to defeat the American aggressors. His appeals to South Viet Nam and his teachings still sounded like calls from our mountains and rivers and radiate as dazzling a light as the sun's; they inspire us and illuminate our path to successes upon successes in our resistance to the arch gangster of our time: US imperialism."

The appeal went on:

"To bid farewell to President Ho Chi Minh, all the South Vietnamese people, together with their compatriots in the rest of the country, resolutely translate their sufferings into revolutionary deeds, devote all their spiritual and material strength to the great cause, to fight to the end with self-denial in order to carry through the task he entrusted to the people of South Viet Nam and of the whole country.

"We, the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam, pledge ourselves to resolutely fulfil, together with the armed forces and people all over the country, the task President Ho Chi Minh had entrusted to us before departing from life: unite as one man, develop our revolutionary heroism, flinch from no sacrifice nor privation, resolutely continue and step up the resistance war, fight till victory and till complete withdrawal of US troops and, total collapse of the puppet army and administration in order to liberate the South, defend the North and ultimately achieve the peaceful reunification of the country.

"Let's pledge ourselves to follow his teaching: 'Unity, unity, great unity; success, success, great success', to constantly reinforce the unity bloc of the entire people in order to defeat the enemy and fulfil all our revolutionary tasks."

The appeal concluded:

"The memory of President Ho Chi Minh, the father of all our people, the esteemed and respected leader and architect of the Vietnamese revolution, will live for ever!"

COMMUNIQUE ON MEMORIAL CEREMONIES FOR PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH IN SOUTH VIET NAM

AFTER learning of the death of President Ho Chi Minh, the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam NFL, the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Advisory Council to the Government met on Sept. 4 to decide memorial rites for President Ho Chi Minh in South Viet Nam.

A joint communique issued at the end of the meeting said:

"For over half a century, all the life and activities of President Ho Chi Minh were closely associated with the national liberation movement of our people. Supreme leader of Viet Nam's revolution, he led it from victory to victory. He was the symbol of the monolith unity of our people, a unity as solid as the Long Range and as tempered as steel. This monolith unity has been and will be the guarantee of all successes of our people in the past, at present and in the future. President Ho Chi Minh was the impersonification of our people's undaunted will in the present epoch. He elevated to a high degree the finest thoughts and feelings of a revolutionary fighter. He has instilled into all our cadres and fighters exalted revolutionary ideals, ethics and style of work."

The communique continued:

"In these hours of deep sorrow and emotion of the entire Vietnamese people, the joint meeting of the South Viet Nam NFL CC, the VNANDPF CC, the RSVN PRG and the Advisory Council decided that 7 days' mourning for President Ho Chi Minh will be observed throughout South Viet Nam from Sept 5 to 11, 1969, as a token of the entire people's regret and grief and gratitude to the President."

The Conference called on the entire people and all officers and men of the People's Liberation Armed Forces of South Viet Nam to show their boundless grief and regret and their gratitude to the beloved leader of the entire nation by holding solemn mourning and memorial ceremonies for President Ho Chi Minh in all public offices and branches of activity in every locality of South Viet Nam.

It resolved to issue an Appeal to the entire people and all the officers and soldiers, cadres and personnel in all branches, at all levels, to follow in these hours of grief the shining example set by President Ho Chi Minh to turn sorrow into strength and resolutely to carry forward the glorious revolutionary cause of the President and the whole nation. It also decided to suspend military attacks for 3 days during the funeral period, and to set up a Committee to organize memorial ceremonies for President Ho Chi Minh in South Viet Nam. This 26-member Committee will be headed by Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the South Viet Nam NFL Central Committee and President of the Advisory Council to the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government.

Saigonese Prepare Mourning of President HO

Giai Phong Press correspondent in Saigon reported that the passing away of President Ho Chi Minh has deeply affected the Saigonese.

After the news of his serious illness was broadcast on Sept. 3, Saigonese from all social strata, political tendencies, including high-ranking officials in the puppet administration, army and police have been constantly listening to the *Voice of Viet Nam* and *Giai Phong* radios.

After the announcement of his death on Sept. 4 and in the following days, the Saigonese circulated copies of the communiques and other important documents released by the Viet Nam Worker's Party Central Committee, the DRVN National Assembly and Government, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, the South Viet Nam NFL, the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RSVN and the Advisory Council. Despite pressure from the US and puppet authorities, the Saigonese wear mourning. Memorial altars have been set up in many houses. Followers of various religious sects are preparing to hold requiem masses in memory of the respected national hero who devoted all his life to the Fatherland.

Copies of some legal newspapers with President Ho Chi Minh's portrait front-paged were sold out in no time.

The Saigonese are busily making preparations for the memorial ceremonies, in defiance of prevention and threat of the puppet authorities. Mourning committees have been set up in many streets by representatives of different trades and TU organizations.

Premier PHAM VAN DONG:

All Vietnamese To Fight U.S. Aggression To a Finish and To Go On Defending and Building Socialism in the North

Speech at the Commemorative Meeting for the 24th Founding Anniversary of the DRVN

Fellow-countrymen and fighters all over the country,

Comrades and friends,

TODAY, the entire Vietnamese people are celebrating the 24th anniversary of the great August Revolution and the National Day of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

Our August Revolution was achieved at the favourable juncture brought about by the great victory of the Soviet army over fascism in World War II. For the first time in a colonial country in South-East Asia, a revolution led by the working class and the Marxist-Leninist Party was successful and the emergence of the first people's state in the history of our country ushered in a new era, in which our people became masters of their destiny, which fact demonstrates that the irresistible trend of our epoch is toward the triumph of national liberation movement and socialism all over the world.

For nearly the past quarter of the century, each year has witnessed new struggles and new achievements which impart to the above-mentioned historic events a paramount significance.

Immediately after the triumph of the August Revolution, the imperialists invaded our country in an attempt to nip in the bud our nascent people's state. For twenty four years running, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has successfully fought the imperialist aggressors, defended and consolidated national independence, and at the same time built a new life, thereby supplying a splendid illustration of the superiority and power of socialism, and bringing more and more to the fore its great role in considerably increasing the potentials of the Vietnamese people, all and sundry, and in linking our people with those of the socialist countries and the world, and henceforth in helping us carry the day and grow unceasingly.

Comrades and friends,

THE past 24 years have been marked by our resistance to imperialist aggression in order to defend and complete our national independence and reunify our country. As early as September 2, 1945 in his Declaration of Independence, President Ho Chi Minh already highlighted the resolve of the Vietnamese people: "Viet Nam has the right to be a free and independent country—and in fact it is so already. The entire Vietnamese people are determined to mobilize all their physical and mental strength, to sacrifice their lives and property in order to safeguard their independence and liberty."

Immediately after that date and in the following nine years, our people put up a long and gruelling resistance against the French colonialists and finally achieved a glorious victory despite strong support to the latter from the US imperialists. The Geneva agreements signed in 1954 gave international recognition to our victory and our fundamental national rights.

Not owning themselves vanquished at Dien Bien Phu and the Geneva Conference, the Americans jumped into South Viet Nam, ousted the French colonialists, created the Ngo Dinh Diem puppet administration, occupied South Viet Nam, sabotaged the reunification of our country in an attempt to turn the southern part of it into a new-type colony and military base and in preparation for an attack against the DRVN.

Viet Nam's history over the past fifteen years has been that of the US imperialists' ceaseless intervention and aggression, and their most atrocious colonial war and untold crimes against our fellow-countrymen all over the country. It has been the history of our most remarkable confrontation with foreign aggression, of our wonder-working people's war against the US and for national salvation, in which we have been growing stronger and stronger in the course of the fighting and winning big successes and steadfastly marching toward total victory.

From 1954 to the end of 1964, the South Vietnamese people achieved two important successes: in 1959-1960 millions of people rose up in concerted actions, smashing the US-Diem control and liberating vast rural areas; then, under the banner of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, they baffled the Staley-Taylor plan in a series of attacks, overthrew the Diem-Nhu puppet regime and foiled the US "special war."

At the end of 1964, to ward off a complete fiasco, the American imperialists stepped up and expanded the war; they shifted the "special war" over to a "limited war" by introducing en masse US expeditionary troops into the South and brazenly unleashed their air and naval war against the DRVN, an independent and sovereign state, a socialist country.

Their scheme was great indeed and they deployed a huge military machinery and other forces of the US, a number of satellite countries and the Saigon puppet administration, thinking that they would win hands down. But in the South as well as in the North of our country, they met with a fierce resistance which surpassed their imagination, an extraordinary fighting spirit of a people resolved to defend the most sacred fruits of their labour and their inviolable rights. So the American imperialists failed in their attempt.

In the South, they unceasingly escalated their war of aggression in 1965, 1966 and 1967. But their first dry-season counter-offensive (1965-1966) mounted with 200,000 US troops, came to grief. In the 1966-1967 dry season, their second counter-offensive involving 200,000 GIs ended in an even more bitter failure. In the 1967-1968 dry season, before being able to launch the third counter-offensive, the 500,000-strong US expeditionary forces were badly pounced in many localities. In these years, our heroic South fought most valiantly, its successes growing with the fighting and each presaging a greater one.

Meanwhile in the North, the American imperialists intensified their war of destruction, striking at our transport and communication network, economic structures, urban centres, densely populated areas, with a view to undermining our manpower and resources, wearing out our vitality, browbeating our people and preventing the militant solidarity between the North and the South. But from the very outset, they received very hard blows. The larger the size and higher the tempo of their attacks, the heavier their setbacks, while none of the objectives of their war was achieved.

In the flush of these brilliant and promising victories, our struggle entered 1968, a year rendered famous by the electrifying *Mau Than Tet* offensives and the subsequent waves of onsets which changed the complexion of the war and tilted the balance of forces between the enemy and us in our favour and made it possible for us to inflict more reverses on the enemy and to steadily progress toward final triumph. In fact, the *Mau Than Tet* victory ushered in a new period in the war, as substantiated by subsequent events in 1968.

A few months after these resounding battles fraught with far-reaching effect, President Johnson declared a ceiling to US buildup in South Viet Nam at 549,000 men and limited US raids on North Viet Nam: the talks between the DRVN and the US thus began. Then at the beginning of November 1968, he announced a halt to the bombing and all other acts of war on the whole territory of the DRVN which unconditional halt led to the Paris quadripartite conference.

We must make an accurate, thorough and basic appraisal of our 1968 achievements, the most striking of which was the successful resistance waged by all our people in both parts of Viet Nam against the US which forced it to cease unconditionally its war of destruction against the DRVN. They were our successful defence of socialist North Viet Nam and the fruits of the August Revolution, and the fruitful militant solidarity between our people and the peoples of the brother socialist countries and of independence-, freedom- and peace-loving people all over the world.

In the military field, there were very signal accomplishments of the army and people of the DRVN in their confrontation with the US Air Forces and Navy. Creatively coordinating the use of various weapons—AA batteries, missiles, light arms, aircraft—, and turning every enemy raid into an occasion to attack him, our people's armed forces performed admirable feats and successfully defended our communications and transport and other important targets in the North. Our compatriots and cadres in all localities, chiefly in Vinh Linh, Quang Binh and the provinces of the former 4th inter-zone, defying all trials and promoting revolutionary heroism, helped our armymen and together with them, fought with might and main to secure victory.

The defeat of the US war of destruction was of paramount significance for the North, the more so as during the four years of war, our people unceasingly strengthened their forces in all fields while the American imperialists, sustaining one setback after another and weakening, faced untold difficulties on the battlefield, in the US and in the world.

For the enemy, it was a failure the seriousness of which was obvious to everyone. Since the US imperialists nurtured perfidious and ambitious designs upon the DRVN, this unequivocal setback of theirs in the course of their war of aggression had all the more a political and strategic significance. Their effort to "Americanize" the war reached its climax and they were now facing great difficulties never known in any wars of US history. The disclosure made by C. Clifford has thrown a bright light on the US situation at the time, which called for a thorough reappraisal of its policy and the drawing of appropriate conclusions.

In the wake of these repeated dramatic feats in 1968, we entered 1969 with the resolve to step up the fight on three fronts, military, political and diplomatic, whereas the enemy got deeply bogged down in the mire of a defensive war in South Viet Nam. General Westmoreland's "two-prong" strategy to bring about a military decision fizzled out in spring 1968 and was replaced by General Abrams' "clear-and-hold" strategy, in which "clear" was also intended to "hold", coupled with "pacification" by priority and "accelerated pacification." No doubt

(Continued page 6)

ALL VIETNAMESE TO FIGHT U.S. AGGRESSION TO A FINISH...

(Continued from page 5)

the American imperialists are still very mulish because they have at their disposal over one million soldiers and persist in clinging to the South of our country. However, the more savage and cruel the US warfare with B.52s, toxic chemicals and other modern weapons in the South, and the more crimes they heap up in their "pacification" raids, the more they stir up the hatred of our people, and weld the militant solidarity of all sections of the South Vietnamese people; the result is that the people's war is developed in scope and depth, in quality and strength and in the military and political field, throughout South Viet Nam, from hilly regions to the plains, even in urban areas, and the political centres formerly considered by the enemy his safest sanctuaries.

Since the beginning of 1969, swinging blows have successively been delivered to General Abrams' defensive system, hitting at US key-organs, battle-tested units, and important logistic bases. The enemy is nonplussed and at a loss how to cope with the new, versatile, tactical methods of the Liberation armed forces who are clever in matching small forces against bigger ones, securing big successes and causing heavy losses to the enemy — while replenishing their forces in the course of the fighting and perseveringly keeping up their actions until total victory.

Compared with 1968, in the first eight months of this year, the GIs sustained serious casualties and their sagging morale sank to a new low, and the number of those who were reluctant to fight and demanded repatriation rose. Meanwhile, the puppet and satellite troops were badly battered; the fighting spirit of officers and men drooped lower, and the desertion and anti-war movement was rife in the puppet army.

Also since early 1969, the political turmoil in the South, even in enemy temporarily held areas, has undergone very important changes, propitious to the cause of the liberation there, under the slogans "Restore peace", "Form a peace cabinet." It was in these favourable conditions that when the rotten Saigon puppet administration was torn by dissension that the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam was formed, marking a new turn in the struggle in the South, spelling out the splendid triumph of the National Front for Liberation's policy of unity against the US, the highest development of the people's power in the war, and the might and winning position of the revolution in the South.

Let us examine, in such a situation, the schemes and plans of the US ruling circles. US President Nixon speaks of peace, but, in fact, continues and intensifies the war of aggression, pursues a neo-colonialist policy towards South Viet Nam, obdurately holds on to the Thieu-Ky puppet administration, using it as a tool for war and for savage suppression of the people of various strata and all those who stand for peace, right in Saigon and other cities of South Viet Nam. US continuation of the war of aggression has been christened "de-Americanization" or "Vietnamization" of the war. It is to be noted that this policy is only aimed at «izing» the war but not putting an end to it. But how to "ize"? The frenzied designs of the US imperialists were well known and the latter formerly thought they could fulfil their schemes, but failed and could not obtain the expected results. And now? Now, the US imperialists in South Viet Nam are like a man who, though in a bog, still wants to catch fish with both hands! Surely enough, they would not be able to catch any fish, instead would sink even deeper in South Viet Nam. In the present conditions of the war after 1968 and with the impetus of the fruitful offensives of our people in 1969, with the situation in the United States and the world peoples' movement in support of our fight, in short, with the current trend of the war, "de-Americanization" of the war, as far as the US is concerned, simply should mean cessation of the war of aggression and total withdrawal of US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam.

As to the story of "Vietnamization" — that is, "puppetization" of the war, which means return to the special war defeated long ago, it is nothing but hackneyed jugglery. To use Vietnamese to fight Vietnamese is indeed an attractive policy for the US! Can there be a better way when one has money and arms, to gain one's ends by simply distributing them? Unfortunately, in our times, such a paradoxical thing decidedly is impossible! The successful resistance of the Vietnamese people proves very eloquently that no matter how cruel, dreadful, fallacious and cunning manoeuvres the US aggressors and their puppets may resort to they will not be able to bring their designs to fruition.

For decades now, the popular masses in South Viet Nam have been deeply imbued with national spirit and national pride. They are now taking part in the fight against US aggression, for national salvation under any forms, everywhere directly or indirectly, militarily or politically, legally or illegally. All of them wish to liberate the South and reunify the country and firmly believe in the final victory of the struggle against US aggression for national salvation. No wonder the popular masses in the liberated zone do so, but so do even the popular masses in the contested areas and even in the temporarily occupied areas. So will do many people who, for some reason or other, still are in the puppet army and administration. In such favourable conditions, the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces is exercising an increasing positive effect on the struggle against US aggression, for national salvation.

The US war is a naked aggressive war against our country. Certainly, there is no means, no magic way to "ize" it into something other than the most atrocious and most abominable colonial war in history. To face it, our entire people, all social segments of South Viet Nam, regardless of class, political tendency, religious belief and nationality, have risen up one after another to take part in this most momentous national liberation war in our present time, which glorifies our Vietnamese nation.

Our incontestably just position has been clearly expounded in the 10-point overall solution of the NFL, which now is that of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, in which two objectives stand out:

— *First*, the US must put an end to its aggressive war against our country, withdraw unconditionally and totally US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and let the South Vietnamese people settle themselves their own affairs without foreign interference.

— *Second*, to set up a Coalition Government, first a Provisional Coalition Government which, after the complete withdrawal of US troops, will organize free and democratic general elections to choose the Official Coalition Government and decide on the political regime of South Viet Nam.

These two goals are closely linked to each other and will lead to the liberation of the South and to the achievement of an independent, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam, and ultimately to the peaceful reunification of the country.

Our entire Vietnamese nation is determined to persistently pursue and step up its fight, to win greater and greater successes and to become stronger and stronger while fighting, to defeat all military and political schemes of the enemy who is seeking a position of strength to impose US neo-colonialism on South Viet Nam and prolong the partition of our country. Our whole people are resolved to respond to President Ho Chi Minh's appeal on the occasion of July last: "Our armed forces and people throughout the country, millions as one man, upholding revolutionary heroism, and fearless of sacrifices and hardships, are determined to carry on and step up the resistance war, with the firm resolve to fight and win, till the complete withdrawal of US troops and till the total collapse of the puppet army and administration, in order to liberate the South, defend the North and achieve peaceful national reunification."

Comrades and friends,

IN the past 24 years, our whole people have devoted heart and soul to a long and hard war of resistance. Together with their efforts to secure a military victory, the DRVN people have been doing their best to build socialism.

In the North, completely liberated after the successful end of the first resistance war and completion of land to the tiller drive, our people shifted over from small peasant economy to socialist construction, by-passing the period of capitalist development. In the harsh conditions created by our poor economic standard, the partition of the country and a bitter war raging since 1965, we have used the people's power as an instrument to carry out the historic task set for proletarian dictatorship; and do our best to build socialism and consolidate the new regime in the political, military, economic and cultural fields. Our three revolutions, conducted simultaneously within the framework of the socialist task as a whole, have recorded initial substantial achievements.

Making rapid and steady steps in a short historical period of time, **the revolution in the relations of production** has in the main scrapped all forms of non-socialist ownership and established the socialist relations of production, under the forms of public ownership and collective ownership. The central task of socialist transformation, beginning with agricultural transformation, was most successful. Agricultural cooperatives have given proof of their superiority in the crucible of war and natural calamities. The recent reinforcement of the regulations on high-level cooperatives has been warmly welcomed by co-op farmers, thus paving the way for agriculture to advance. The improvement of the management of co-operatives and rectifications of deviations, including those in the "peasant household's three jobs," together with the implementation of the new regulations, will certainly lead to the further strengthening and consolidation of agricultural cooperatives. The revolution in the relations of production which effects the system of ownership, and took place one step ahead of the other ones, has laid the social foundation and blazed the trail, for socialist construction as a whole. At present our people are continuing it in order to gradually streamline the socialist relations of production. We must in the near future complete the transformation of handicrafts workers and small traders.

Our **technical revolution** aimed at establishing the material and technical basis of socialism, is the linchpin of the three revolutions and has scored an initial success in the national economy. The forces of production in socialist North have been developing unceasingly. Little by little, freed from a mono-culture system and from subordination to nature, our agriculture is in a fair way to become a comprehensive rural economy; it co-ordinates the production of food crops with the growing of industrial crops and animal husbandry and rearranges industrial areas in order to turn to better account the favourable natural conditions in the country. A heavy industry with its nascent main branches has made its appearance; the light industry network including thousands of big and small centrally-run and local enterprises is in the making, and together with agriculture, forms a local economy which is the solid basis of socialist industrialization. Despite the havoc wrought by the enemy, in the four years of war, the new economic orientation was successfully carried out, transport and communications was kept in good order and growing, agriculture and industry were maintained and even expanded in some aspects, the circulation and distribution of goods was improved, currency and basic commodities prices remained stable, all the requirements of the front line and the most urgent needs of the people in daily life were met. Socialist economy continued to make headway and was readjusted to the war conditions and long-term trend as well. Since the beginning of this year, the fulfilment of State plans and economic management have achieved notable results. Of late our people in the North have put under control a big flood, and successfully protected the lives, property and crops of our people. This was also an achievement testifying to the superiority of the socialist system in the North.

The **ideological and cultural revolution** has scored most important results in the enhancement of the patriotism and socialist consciousness of the people and in their mobilization to stand up and take in hand their revolutionary work. In this revolution have flourished the most exalted thoughts and sentiments of our nation and our times, embodied in the revolutionary heroism of millions of people of all ages and walks of life, in most extensive mass movements.

This struggle has tempered our people into new men and fighters against American aggression, and intelligent and skilful builders of socialism. The achievements in the ideological and cultural revolution were also seen in the great strides of the educational branch, in the fostering of cultural and medical workers in the powerful upswing of socialist literature and arts and in the initial development of science and technology.

The achievements of socialist construction have changed the fabric of our society and visibly improved our people's material and cultural life compared with the past. They have attached our fellow-countrymen ever more closely to the socialist regime and rallied them more compactly around the Party, Government and President HO CHI MINH, increased mutual love and assistance, strengthened their political and ideological cohesion and forged them into an invincible force to defeat the aggressors and defend the building of a new life. At present, the North Vietnamese people, in the flush of victory, are zealously stepping up their activities in all fields, strengthening national defence and never relaxing their vigilance, ready to thwart all aggressive schemes of the US imperialists against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. At the same time, they are striving to fulfil successfully the State plan, improve economic management and reinforce the socialist North, thereby performing better than ever the duties of the great rear area towards the South, with the resolve to win more splendid successes as greetings to the great celebrations in 1970.

Looking back to the past 24 years, our people can rightly be proud and elated because we have done great things. Looking forward, our people are even more jubilant, more confident, because by dint of work, research and thinking, all amidst the flames and smoke of war, we have gradually realized the problems of socialism in our country — the problems of State management, economic and cultural development, building of a new life — and gained more strength, more experiences so as to find satisfactory solutions to them. In spite of war losses, in spite of the difficulties in many fields to be overcome, the path to follow has become clearer and clearer, and a bright to-morrow is ahead of us.

Comrades and friends,

THE long, hard but certainly victorious revolutionary struggle of our people, which culminates in the fight against US aggression, for national salvation, has gradually evinced the stamp of our epoch on it and has been exerting an ever greater, wider and deeper international effect.

Many people in the world regard the Vietnamese people's patriotic war as the symbol, centre and apex of the revolutionary drive of the world's peoples against the US imperialist aggressors, for the fundamental interests of mankind.

The broad support of the peoples of the socialist countries and other countries, including the progressive people in the United States, has given shape to a world peoples' front in support of the Vietnamese people, against US aggression. This is a very important international development, representative of our epoch, which increases the fighting force of our people and stimulates the worldwide movement against US imperialism.

For their part, our people always feel boundless gratitude for the great support of the socialist camp and the world's peoples, because they understand that their revolution is an integral part of the latter's, that their strength and successes are closely linked to the strength and successes of the socialist camp and the world's peoples. They are always conscious that while fighting for their sacred national rights they are also discharging their lofty internationalist obligation.

In the present war against the US aggressors, for national salvation, as well as in the Viet Nam revolutionary struggle as a whole, we have attached special importance to the strengthening of the militant solidarity and cooperation between ours and the brother socialist countries. Determined to fight and defeat the US aggressors, our people also seek to defend their own independence and freedom and concurrently to preserve the fruits of socialist construction on the Vietnamese soil and contribute to the defence of the socialist camp. We note with great confidence and enthusiasm that over one billion people of all the brotherly socialist countries have been doing their best to accomplish their international task towards us and wholeheartedly assisting us in getting the better of the US aggressors.

Aware that the socialist camp is a sacred produce of the working class and labouring people in the whole world, the bulwark of revolution and of peace, we have never spared any effort to contribute to the strengthening of the solidarity and friendship between the socialist countries on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, to the consolidation and development of the might of the socialist camp. We resolutely support the Chinese people's will to foiled all the dark schemes of the US imperialists and the Chiang Kai-shek clique and to recover Taiwan, an integral part of the great People's Republic of China. We resolutely support the tenacious struggle of the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea who are determined to frustrate all the US and Pak Jung Hi clique's provocations and preparations of a new war; and demand that the US withdraw its troops from South Korea, let the Korean people settle themselves their own affairs and the reunification of their country. We resolutely support the struggle of the people of the German Democratic Republic against the expansionist schemes of the US-backed West German revanchist militarists, for the defence of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the GDR and for the building of a happy new life. We resolutely support the efforts of the heroic Cuban people to baffle all schemes and provocations, blockade and attacks of the US imperialists and their henchmen, to successfully build socialism and a new life on their fine island and to continuously hold high the revolutionary banner in the Western hemisphere.

On the Indo-Chinese peninsula, we have always endeavoured to consolidate and develop the militant solidarity and relations of good neighbourhood and lasting friendship among the three peoples of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos with the aim of defending the basic national right of each people against the common enemy — the US imperialist aggressors — thus contributing to the defence of peace and security of the peoples in Indo-China and Asia.

We have always in the past respected and will in the future constantly respect the independence, sovereignty, peace and neutrality of Cambodia, and recognize the territorial integrity of Cambodia within her present borders. We sincerely thank the Khmer people and the Royal Government of Cambodia under the clearsighted leadership of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk for their support to our struggle against US aggression, for national salvation, and we resolutely support their certainly successful defence of their sacred national rights and territorial integrity.

We strongly denounce the US imperialists' flagrant sabotage of the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, committing of US and satellite troops to a "special war" and implementation of their neo-colonialist policy in Laos, use of the territory and airspace of Laos to intensify their aggressive war in Viet Nam and constant threat to the Western border of our country. The people and Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam vigorously denounce, and protest against, those criminal acts of the US imperialists. We resolutely support the Laotian people's just struggle for the strict implementation of the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, and warmly hail their resounding victories over all the encroaching attacks of the US imperialists and their lackeys, and their successful defence and consolidation of their liberated zone.

We convey to the Asian, African and Latin American peoples our greetings of solidarity, militancy and victory in the struggle against the US imperialist aggressors, against colonialism, old and new. We stand solidly behind the national liberation movements in the world, the resistance of the Arab people against the Israeli aggressors — stooges of the US imperialists — the national liberation drive of the Black people in the United States and all actions against racial discrimination the world over.

We resolutely support the nationalist countries' endeavour to consolidate national independence and achieve prosperity; support the revolutionary activities of the working class and people in the capitalist countries; support the struggle of the world's peoples against the aggressive and war-mongering US imperialists, for the noble goals of our era, namely peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

Fellow-countrymen and fighters all over the country,

Comrades and friends,

THE 24 years of the new regime, born of the August Revolution, have been a successful period in which our people have made such great progress as would have required many centuries in a different system.

The new epoch starting on the Second of September 1945, has revived and considerably exalted in us our fine tradition and age-old vitality, and has brought our people closer to the revolutionary forces of our times, namely the socialist camp, the international communist and workers' movement, the national liberation movement and all progressive mankind.

The invincible might of our people and of our system stems from the coordinated working of the following factors: the people's power addressing itself to the historic mission of proletarian dictatorship; the people's army serving as the core of the armed forces fighting aggression; the United National Front symbolizing the nationwide unity; the militant solidarity binding our people to the peoples of the brother socialist countries and the world; and on top, and exerting its decisive effect on these factors, is the leadership of our Party, armed with Marxism-Leninism and headed by our beloved President Ho Chi Minh, the great leader of our Party and people. Their preservation and promotion and the intensification of their effect will vouch for greater and greater successes of our revolution.

Welcoming our National Day, our people all over the country are enthusiastically looking back to the glorious path we have covered in the past 24 years. Such an inspiring survey fills them with more confidence and fires them triumphantly forward, to resolutely bring our resistance to US aggression to complete victory, effectively defend and successfully build socialism in the North, liberate the South and ultimately achieve the peaceful reunification of the country.

Fellow-countrymen and fighters, forward!

The US imperialist aggressors will be defeated!

The Vietnamese people will win!

Military Operations

South Viet Nam

URBAN PEOPLE STEP UP STRUGGLE

(Continued from page 8)

most varied tactics of the PLAF who could mount at will large-scale or small attacks. Offensives which seemed at first to be divisive actions turn into annihilation battles. The PLAF struck at the enemy from without or within his defence line. In many localities, military operations were co-ordinated with popular uprisings. Receiving unexpected, hard blows, harassed and pulled from all sides, the enemy tried vainly to wriggle out of his fix and exposed his weakness to fresh blows from the PLAF.

The regional troops and guerrillas also did extraordinarily well. For instance, in Long My district (Mekong delta), in August they put out of action 650 enemy troops and destroyed a great quantity of war material.

These assaults also had a strong impact on enemy morale, already affected by the political crisis in Saigon and popular grumbling in Washington against Nixon's policy. Most typical were the patriotic action of the puppet officers and soldiers who occupied an artillery position at Tra Vinh and turned the gun muzzles on the US aggressors and traitors to the country (night of August 13) and the rebellion of Company A, Battalion 3 of Brigade 196 in which enemy troops refused battle in Que Son region (August 24).

- Students preparing for the first part of their Bachelor's degree in the My Tho provincial capital on August 9 lodged with the local puppet administration a flat refusal to join the "popular defence" forces, GPA reported.

They pointed out that the enlistment of students into that organization was nothing short of downright press-ganging.

After much arguing the students won their point.

- The Saigon stooge administration on August 3 chased 500 kerbpedlars from the Binh Tay market area in the city's 6th precinct.

In a recent petition, these people, mostly relatives of puppet soldiers, pressed for their right to earn a living, especially now that living costs have been on a steady rise.

- 500 textile workers in Saigon met on August 18 to discuss measures to enforce their claims.

The claims, already two months old, included wage lifts, 8-hour workday, paid leave for women in confinement and milk allowance for their babies, special allowance for sick workers, funds for interests-free loans, etc.

At the meeting, the textile workers strongly condemned unwarranted sacking and divisive machinations by the management.

They declared that unless their demands were satisfactorily complied with resolute actions would be taken to this effect.

Military Operations

PLAF Battle-Count in August

400 Enemy Bases and Positions in 60 South Viet Nam Urban Centres Stormed

– An Armoured Regiment Put out of Action, Another Badly Mauled, a US Regimental CP Overrun, Over 20 Battalions or Similar Units Wiped Out or Whittled Down.

– Important Communication Lines Frequently Disrupted or Threatened with Interruption, 350 Military Vehicles Destroyed or Heavily Damaged, 70 Vessels Sunk or Burnt, 7 Military Trains Overturned.

– Repeated PLAF Attacks Against Saigon, Cam Ranh, Phu Bai, Qui Nhon, Can Tho, Pleiku, etc.. ; Hundreds of Thousands of Tons of Munitions and Fuel Destroyed or Set Ablaze ; About One Thousand Enemy Troops Knocked Out.

MOST of these attacks were made in the last twenty days of August, chiefly on the night of 11th and the following days.

A preliminary report gave the enemy losses in August as more than 20 battalions and corresponding units of crack troops wiped out or decimated. Puppet Armoured Regiment 15, freshly put in fighting trim, was struck off the charge. Near Da Nang, the CP of Regiment 1, US Marine Division 1, was overrun. US armoured cavalry autonomous Regiment 11 sustained heavy losses. A dozen brigades and regiments such as Brigade 3 of the First Cav, Brigade 3 of Airborne Division 101, Brigade 1 of motorized Infantry Division 5, Light Infantry Brigade 196, Regiments 1, 5 and 7 of Marine Division 1, two puppet regiments of Infantry Division 1 and 5, and a multi-battalion unit of puppet paratroops were depleted.

The PLAF also hammered at trunk communication lines such as Highway No. 13 from Saigon to Loc Ninh, Road No. 19 from Qui Nhon to Pleiku, Highway No. 9 from Dong Ha to Khe Sanh and Highway No. 1 linking Saigon to the coast provinces up to the 17th parallel, the Eastern Vam Co river in Bien Hoa region, the railway sections, chiefly north of Nha Trang and between Da Nang and Hue, etc...: nearly 350 vehicles were wrecked, 7 military trains derailed, 70 vessels destroyed and 2,000 enemy troops disabled.

The enemy rear-bases were harassed by regional troops and people's militia with civilian support. Many ammunition and fuel depots in Saigon, Can Tho (Mekong delta), Qui Nhon and Cam Ranh (coastal region of Central Trung Bo), Pleiku (High Plateaux) and Phu Bai (near Hue) were pounded by PLAF artillery. In these onsets, tens of thousands of tons of bombs and shells and at least 4 million litres of petrol fell prey to fire and over 2,000 men including a great number of officers knocked out.

The successes recorded in August testified that the PLAF constantly maintained their offensive posture and packed increasingly powerful punches. They showed that they could hit the enemy with violence, at the time and in the direction of their choice, replenish their forces in the course of fighting, and win bigger and bigger successes. In all the 3 strategic zones (hilly and rural areas and urban centres) the enemy was violently taken to task and suffered serious losses in manpower and materials.

The various tactics and defensive disposition of the enemy proved ineffective in face of the skilfulness and

(Continued page 7)

PLAF To Keep 3-Day Truce (September 8-10, 1969)

IN implementation of the decision taken at the joint conference of the South Viet Nam NFL, the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Advisory Council to the PRG, the Command of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces has issued an order for a 3-day truce beginning September 8, 1969, during the preparations for President Ho Chi Minh's funeral.

The PLAF also received orders to organize with the civilian population memorial ceremonies for President Ho Chi Minh, and to help, and see to the security of, civilians attending them.

The military and civil servants of the puppet regime who wish to take part in these rites will receive PLAF assistance and protection, provided that they come separately and not in formations, carry no arms and intelligence-gathering devices.

Soldiers and officers of the US and its satellites will be free to go about during these three days on the same conditions.

The PLAF command's orders also recall that all hostile acts committed by the US and quislings such as sweeps, air raids or naval bombardments, reconnaissance or spying activities, etc... as well as misuse of the truce shall be duly punished.

ALLIANCE DELEGATION'S VISIT TO NORTH—A SUCCESS

THE visit to North Viet Nam of the Delegation of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, led by lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, the Alliance's President and Vice-Chairman of the Council of Advisors to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, concluded on Sept. 3, 1969.

During its stay in North Viet Nam, the Delegation was received by Ton Duc Thang, President of the Presidium of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, Truong Chinh, President of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, and Pham Van Dong, Premier of the DRVN, with whom it had cordial talks.

The Delegation had the privilege of an interview with President HO CHI MINH.

It visited a number of State organs, mass organisations, army units, cultural, economic and religious establishments, schools and localities among them President Ho Chi Minh's native village. Wherever it went, it was warmly welcomed by the people.

On the morning of Sept. 3, it held talks with a Delegation of the Fatherland Front led by its President Ton Duc Thang. The two delegations exchanged their viewpoints on great problems of the Resistance to US aggression.

At the end of these talks filled with brotherhood and frankness, a communique was made public.

The Communique said :

The VNANDPF Delegation was happy to notice that there existed between Vietnamese of both zones profound national feelings which bound them together. It was gratified to have an opportunity to see for itself the great achievements of North Viet Nam in the field of economic and cultural construction and noted that North Viet Nam's face was being made finer and finer with every passing day.

Both Delegations unanimously condemned the obstinacy and perfidy of the US and the Thieu-Ky clique who did not give up either their aggressive and colonialist position or their scheme to perpetuate the partition of Viet Nam. They reaffirmed their total support to the 4 points of the DRVN Government and the 10-point overall solution of the NFL and the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government which were the sole basis to arrive at a cessation of the Viet Nam war and restore peace. They reiterated their unswerving position, which urged that the US withdraw unconditionally all its troops and troops of its satellites from South Viet Nam, and let the Vietnamese people free to settle their own affairs, without foreign interference.

Latest News

ON the night of Sept. 4, the PLAF hammered at 140 US bases and positions throughout South Viet Nam, Western agencies reported.

PLAF infantry raids were mounted on two positions (near Hue city) of US Airborne Division 101, a base near Phan Thiet town (Binh Thuan province), a base of a puppet battalion at Chon Thanh (70 km north of Saigon), a ipost and a US gun emplacement near Go Dau Ha (57 km north-northeast of Saigon), a position of the First Cav. near Tay Ninh town.

The targets bombarded by the PLAF included a base of US Infantry Division 1 at Lai Khe (52 km north of Saigon), the US airbases at Bien Hoa and Phan Rang, and a position of the US marines near Quang Tri town.

The enemy admitted 400 casualties in these attacks.

The same sources said that in the small hours of Sept. 6, many targets in Da Nang come under patriots' fire. A bomb storage was blown up and set ablaze and hundred-metre-high flames rose in the sky.

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